

Testimony of Mark Drury
Montgomery College Business Partner
Montgomery County Council
April 15, 2020 at 1:30p.m.



Thank you, President Katz and Council Members, for allowing me to testify on behalf of Montgomery College.

Thank you your great work and perseverance keeping our community safe and moving forward in this difficult time.

My name is Mark Drury, Vice President of Business Development for Shapiro & Duncan, now in our 44th year as a Rockville based commercial mechanical contractor. We employ over 400 individuals who help support their 400 plus families putting thousands of meals on tables every day. We take great pride in our workforce and the quality of services we provide our clients every day, even as this crisis takes its toll on us all.

I ask that, as you consider the county's budget this year, please support Montgomery College. Help the College stay affordable so residents can access the education needed to join and advance in our workforce—an education they will need even more as we move beyond this emergency. We know that Montgomery College works for Montgomery County because we intentionally hire MC alumni for our company's workforce. MC works for Montgomery County – and for Shapiro & Duncan.

Our workforce includes a broad range of skills, abilities, and multiple levels of both skills training and education. We are extremely thankful to have Montgomery College as a significant partner in our staff development efforts, providing excellent resources in a broad range of education platforms that serve our team—from apprenticeship to engineering.

We have numerous apprentices and instructors who spend countless evenings at Montgomery College's Gudelsky Institute both receiving and giving a quality education. We have had employees complete Certificate and Associate degree programs in Construction Management, Accounting, Business Management, Computer Science, Architecture and Engineering. We have graduated a few Valedictorians and have long served on Montgomery College Advisory groups. We provide internship opportunities for students—Montgomery College sends us their best. Many of those interns become fulltime employees and one of those interns, a dozen years later, now heads up our Engineering Department. We enjoy and need our symbiotic relationship.

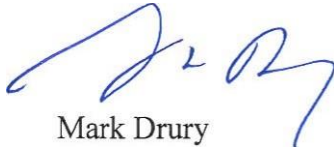
Montgomery College plays a crucial role in the success of Montgomery County—and will be an important catalyst to help lift up residents as this crisis subsides. With campuses strategically located across the county, higher education is accessible to all county residents. The Dual Enrollment Program provides high school students the opportunity for college coursework and credit while still in high school. Montgomery College graduates successfully matriculate to the best 4-year schools in the nation and are the largest source of students completing bachelor

degrees right here in Montgomery County at The Universities at Shady Grove. Montgomery College is a big contributor to our counties top national ranking for highly educated populations.

We are in the midst of an incredibly difficult era and public health crisis. We know that you have tough decisions to make as you deliberate the FY21 Operating Budget. We ask that you continue to support Montgomery College, an anchor institution for our county. Help MC remain affordable so residents can get the education needed to help them move forward after this emergency. Help ensure this exceptional institute continues to thrive so it can help our county thrive by educating our residents and providing an exceptional workforce for businesses, like Shapiro & Duncan, in Montgomery County.

Thank you for accepting the great burden of governance.

Respectively,



Mark Drury